

To: IRLBC and IRRWPB Board Members
From: Kari Layman
Date: 07 October 2002
Subject: 21 August 2002 IRLBC/IRRWPB Meeting Minutes

This document contains the list of attendees and the meeting minutes from the 21 August 2002 Joint IRLBC/IRRWPB Meeting in Fort Frances, Ontario. Questions or comments regarding the contents of this document may be directed to Kari Layman.

List of Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email
Doug Brown	EC – Burlington	doug.brown@ec.gc.ca
John Merriman	EC – Burlington	John.Merriman@ec.gc.ca
Murray Clamen	IJC – Ottawa	clamenm@ottawa.ijc.org
Herb Gray	IJC – Ottawa	
Nick Heisler	IJC – Ottawa	
Rudy Koop	IJC – Ottawa	Koopr@ottawa.ijc.org
Rick Cousins	LWS – Ottawa	rcousins@lwcb.ca
Bill Darby	MNR – Ontario	bill.darby@mn.gov.on.ca
Lisa Bourget	IJC – Washington	bourgetl@washington.ijc.org
Gerry Galloway	IJC – Washington	gallowayg@washington.ijc.org
Dennis Schornack	IJC – Washington	schornackd@washington.ijc.org
Russ Trowbridge	IJC – Washington	trowbridger@washington.ijc.org
Kathy Svanda	MDH	kathy.svanda@health.state.mn.us
Colonel Robert Ball	USACE – St. Paul	robert.l.ball.col@usace.army.mil
Ed Eaton	USACE – St. Paul	edward.g.eaton@usace.army.mil
Kari Layman	USACE – St. Paul	kari.l.layman@usace.army.mil

1. Welcome

- a. John Merriman brought the meeting to order.

2. Minutes

- a. Revised draft of May 7 meeting completed. Murray Clamen is checking into the delays in the posting of the French translation of the meeting minutes.
- b. Kari Layman will prepare the meeting minutes for the 21 August 2002 joint meeting.

3. Review Agenda

- a. Doug Brown requested adding the following topics:
 - i. A discussion on the public meeting;
 - ii. Requests for funding before the end of the fiscal year.
- b. Ed Eaton suggested viewing the photos of the flood damage in the basin.

- c. These agenda items were accepted.

4. Public Meeting Discussion

- a. Eighty-six (86) signatures were gathered on the sign-in sheets. Approximately one hundred (100) people were in attendance. There appeared to be a good representation of areas within the basin.
- b. The format of the meeting, starting with an open house and then proceeding to the presentation, seemed successful. However, the open house may have lasted a bit long. It was generally suggested that the open house could have been ½ hour long, leaving more time for the presentation and questions.
- c. Kathy Svanda gave a summary of the exhibitors. Invitations to exhibit at the open house were sent to organizations known to be active in the basin. Twelve (12) exhibitors were present. There was a positive response to the exhibition. The boards felt that next year Boise and Abitibi should be invited to exhibit.
- d. People were very concerned with the adoption of the new rule curves. There seemed to be a lot of misinformation amongst the group regarding both the operation of the dams during this seasons high water and the purpose for the adoption of the new rule curves. Some of the comments included:
 - i. New Rule Curves are responsible for the flooding;
 - ii. More local control;
 - iii. There needs to be a contingency plans if the rain is in the north part of the basin;
 - iv. Frogs and mosquitoes are more important than people;
 - v. IJC takes too long to make decisions;
 - vi. IJC usurped dam control.
- e. Murray Clamen suggested an afternoon session, used by the St. Lawrence Board, where emergency officials, local public officials, and affected businesses can voice their concerns in a closed forum meeting. These seem to be a little less heated.
- f. Doug Brown suggested we look to other forms of communication to combat misinformation. Also enlist the help of a professional PR person.
- g. Bill Darby suggested the addition of local representation might facilitate the joining of the two boards. Ed Eaton reminded the group the people in the basin have a negative view of a combined board and stressed the importance of earning acceptance by demonstrating that the boards can work together effectively.
- h. Invite public officials to participate in the meeting.
- i. Gerry Galloway suggested seizing initiative to get Board's story out to local media (local talk shows, radio, other).

5. September 2002 Joint IRLBC IRRWPB Report to IJC

a. Peaking issues on the Rainy River

- i. Ontario MNR and Minnesota DNR are studying the effects of peaking on the ecosystem. POC for the study is Kevin Peterson. IRLBC/IRRWPB is also interested in the non-environmental issues (recreation, navigation, etc.) associated with peaking. John Merriman will contact Kevin Peterson to determine if the study group is willing include these topics in their scope of work.

- ii. The Boards need to review and provide comments on the draft Terms of Reference provided by Kevin Peterson.
 - b. Other issues raised at the November 28, 2001 IJC Hearing in International Falls**
 - i. Kathy Svanda will provide a summary of the Lake of the Woods erosion study, as it applies to the Rainy River, for the September report.
 - ii. Provide an update on the cooperation agreements between Environment Canada and First Nations.
 - c. Meeting 08 October 2002.**
 - i. Combined report should be provided to the IJC no later than 20 September 2002.
 - ii. Murray Clamen suggested the presentation include the following:
 - 1. Perspective on public meeting;
 - 2. Summary of minutes from board meetings;
 - 3. Website updates;
 - 4. Perspective on merging the boards;
 - 5. The addition of local representation. Chairman Gray commented his support of the addition of local representation and reiterated the desire to combine the boards.
 - 6. Chairman Gray requested an update on security issues concerning the structures within the basin.
- 6. Follow-up with IJC Recommendation 1 and 4 from IRLBC October 26, 2001**
- a. Recommendation 1 actions
 - i. IRLBC will issue a letter to the IJC documenting the receipt of the report requested from Boise. The IRLBC will also transmit its views on the ability of Boise to carry out future orders from the IJC, based upon the implementation of Option 2 (selected by Boise as the option favored for implementation) as presented in the June 2002 ACRES Report.
 - ii. At the request of Gerry Galloway, the letter will also provide the IJC with a draft letter from the IJC to Boise (for the Commission's signature), expressing the IJC's deep concern that the implementation of Option 2 be completed as soon as possible (no later than the next spring runoff).
 - iii. Ed Eaton will draft this letter.
 - b. Recommendation 4 actions
 - i. A gage has been established at Crane Lake. The data are available on the internet.
 - ii. Modeling of the area will need to be completed. Cross-section data will need to be collected. Data requirements and modeling will require funding over the next two (2) years. This should not be considered for the end of the year fiscal requests because the work could not be completed this year.
- 7. Update on environmental monitoring activities**
- a. Kathy Svanda and John Merriman reported that outflow and monitoring data had been requested for the Joint Annual Report. Also, the report would include updates on fish consumption.
- 8. Update on hydrologic conditions in the basin**

- a. Completed by the presentation at the public meeting.

9. Preparation of Joint annual Board Report

- a. IJC requests report no later than 20 September 2002.
- b. Expanded hydrology and regulation section to cover 2002 high water event.
- c. Ed Eaton will draft H & H portions, regulation, and IRLBC activities; John Merriman will draft W/Q portions, peaking study status (in lieu of separate report on this action item), and IRRWPB activities.

10. Resourcing needs

- a. Requests for additional funding must be presented to the IJC, in written form, before the end of this fiscal year.
- b. A draft list will be discussed on the 05 September 2002 conference call. Possible items include: 1. Funding for the Board Secretary; 2. New gage for the town of Rainy River; 3. Expanded report on the high water event. Lisa Bourget suggested that the funding requests focus on products.
- c. Include this request with Board letter transmitting views on the ability of Boise to carry out future orders from the IJC.

11. Posting of Board Minutes

- a. The board is concerned about the delays in the posting of board minutes. The minutes are reviewed by Murray Clamen and Gerry Galloway and then released to be posted on the website. The delay appears to be the French translation of the minutes.
- b. The boards feel the French translation of the meeting minutes is necessary.
- c. Murray Clamen will check into the status of the French translation of the minutes.

12. Web site issues

- a. Currently, the link for the RRPB is not active the IJC website. Murray Clamen will be look into this issue.
- b. The new IJC website will have a standard look and feel. The prototype will be released soon, although the exact time has not been specified. Murray Clamen will update the boards as necessary when the status of the new website changes.

13. Date, time, and place of next joint board meeting

- a. The next meeting will be a conference call scheduled for 05 September 2002 at 1300 CDT. The discussion items will include:
 - i. Requests for additional funding;
 - ii. Joint Annual Report to the IJC;
 - iii. Draft letter tot he IJC regarding the receipt of Boise's report and board's views on ability of Boise to carry out future IJC orders;
 - iv. Date of next meeting.